The question whether the Bill be referred to the Select Committee consisting of the above mentioned members was put to vote and carried.

The Bill was accordingly referred to the Select Committee.

THE TRAVANCORE TELEPHONE BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to introduce the Travancore Telephone Bill.

Honourable members are aware of the fact that last year, during the budget debates, this House was called upon to vote in favour of the opening and establishment of the trunk telephones in Travancore. The work was commenced and the only difficulty that we now find in the matter is the absence of proper legislation enabling the work to be carried on. The work is likely to be finished very soon: at the same time, it is necessary that we should have certain statutory protection in regard to its working. This Bill is therefore proposed. As pointed out in the statement of objects and reasons, part I of the Bill deals with definitions. Part II deals with the privileges and powers of Government. It is stated that so far as the operation of telephones in the State is concerned Government should have complete control over the system and no private individual will be permitted to have telephone service unless he has a license or permit issued by the Government, just as in the case of electric installations. Naturally, Government have reserved the power to suspend, to stop or to intercept telephone communication, when in any emergency public interests demand such a course of action.

I may also mention that if, in connection with the installation, damage is done to private property, provision is made for paymat by Government. Of course, there are provisions for the punishment of persons who meddle with telephone apparatus or tamper with the wire or disturb the connectin. As the House is aware, these provisions are absolutely essential for the proper working of public utility services like the telephone.

I beg to move that the Bill be read in the Assembly.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: I second it.

DR. C. R. HARLER (*Planters*): Sir, I welcome this Bill in that it marks a step forward in the development of the State.

In the High Range, we have a complex telephone system extending from Bodinayakanur, through Top Station into Travancore, on to Munnar and then down to Pallivasal in one direction, and to Vagavurrai in the other. The system probably covers fifty miles; we have two exchanges and about a hundred phones.

Sir, Section 3 of the Bill provides that the Government will have power to grant licenses to persons working telephones and also to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

take over telephone systems already working. This is an ominous sentence to an industry which is already overburdened with taxation. I should therefore be grateful if, when a Select Committee is formed, I am given a chance to express my views.

The motion that the Bill be read was put to vote and carried.

The Secretary then raed the titel of the Bill -- "The Travancore Telephone Bill."

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : I beg to move that the Travancore Telephone Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of

Messrs: S. Krishna Aiyar,
Kottalil P. Abraham,
P. C. Adichan,
D. Francis,
N. John Joseph,
Dr. C. R. Harler,
K. P. Kochukora Thararkan,
P. Narayana Pillai,
K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai,
Kotiveetil Ramankunju,
S. Chattanatha Karayalar,
Joseph Vithayathil and
The Legal Remembrancer,

to report within theree months.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : I second it.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

THE TRAVANCORE CREDIT BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI : I beg to introduce the Travancore Credit Bank Act Amendment Bill.

I am sure honourable members will remember the various provisions contained in the Credit Bank Act which was passed by this Assembly not very long ago. Section 17 of that Act provides that the Credit Bank may enter into negotiations with Government and take over the business of the State Land Mortgage Bank. There is therefore statutory authorisation for the Credit Bank to carry on the work of the Land Mortgage Bank.

Section 23 of the Act provides that in respect of loans granted by the Credit Bank the summary process under the Revenue Recovery Act might be availed of.

Now, Sir, actually, when Section 17 was about to materialise, it was discovered that, under the provisions of the Credit Bank Act

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly